

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for negotiating an Internet Protocol (IP) address for an imaging apparatus connected to a network includes the steps of controlling network communication between the imaging apparatus and the network; defining an imaging state when the imaging apparatus is available for imaging, wherein during the imaging state the imaging apparatus waits in an idle state during periods of non-imaging; 5 defining an automatic IP address negotiation state when the imaging apparatus is not available for imaging; if the imaging apparatus is in the idle state, then determining whether the imaging apparatus should leave the imaging state and enter the automatic IP address negotiation state; and when the imaging apparatus is in the automatic IP address 10 negotiation state, then attempting to automatically assign an IP address to the imaging apparatus.